

DETAILED ACTION

(1). Applicant's Request-for-Continued Examination (RCEX), Amendments and Remarks filed on 2/18/2010 have been received.

Total cancelled claims are 1-14, 18 and 27.

Claims 15, 17, 24, 29 and 30 are amended.

The rejections of claims 15-30 in prior Office Action dated 11/19/2009 is withdrawn as a results of the Amendments for claims 15 and 24.

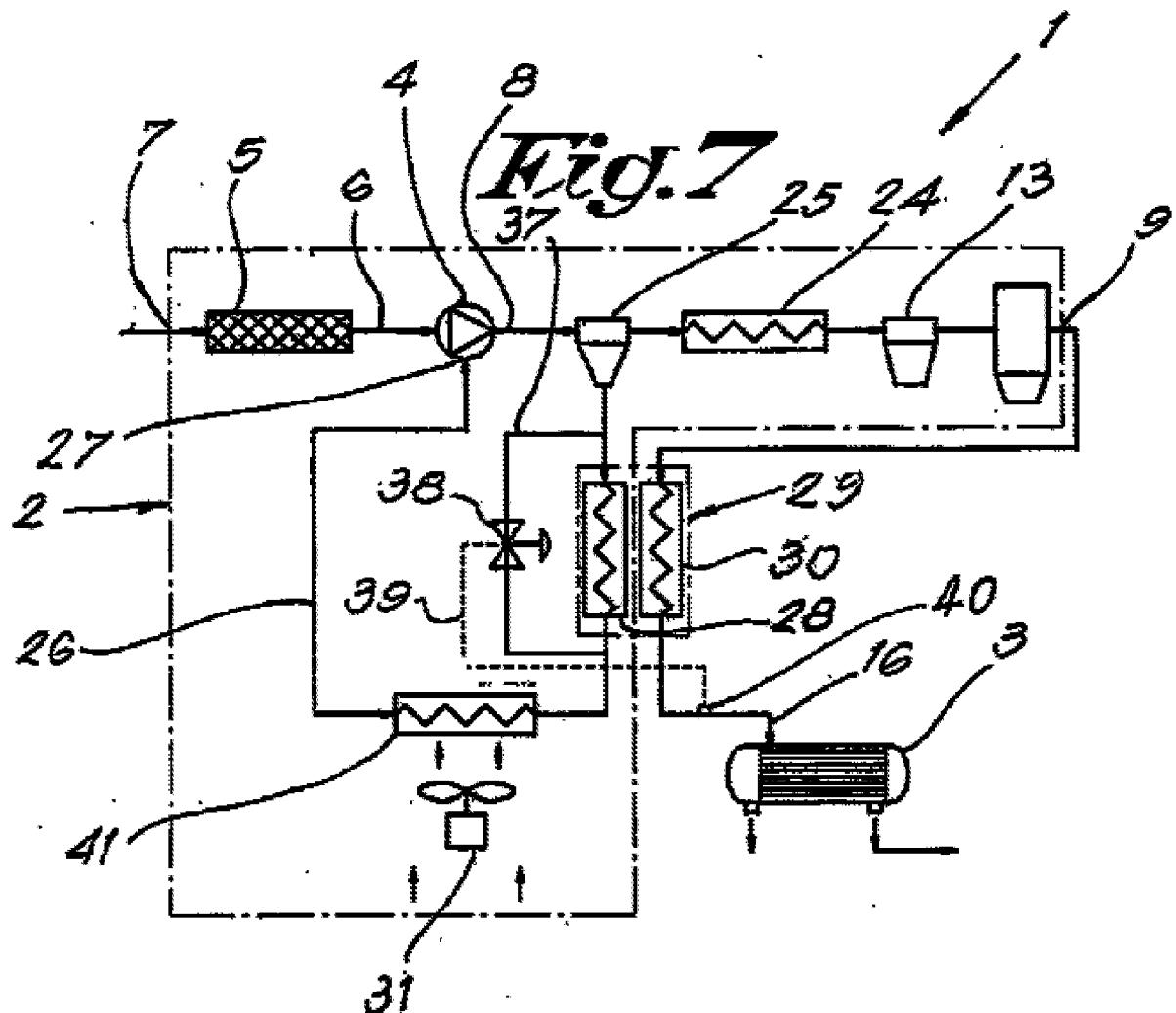
Allowable Subject Matter

(2). **Claims 15-17, 19-26 and 28-30** are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

(3). The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In view of the current Amendments in instant claim 15 as recited: "a compressor element with liquid injection whose injected liquid is separated in a heated state at the exit of the compressor element, by a liquid separator; the compressed gas mixture is re-heated before it is passed through membrane separator, comprising the step: reheating comprising using the heat of the separated liquid to re-heat the gas mixture", and in claim 24 as recited: "compressor installation comprising a compressor element with liquid injection and a liquid separator incorporated in a compressed air line located at the exit of the compressor element, exit being connected to the liquid injection system via a return line", it obviates rejection raised in the prior Office Action dated 11/19/2009. This distinct feature is further illustrated in the Figure below, compressor 4, liquid separator 25, return line 26 and liquid injection 27.



While related prior arts such as Yoshida et al (US 6865877B2), Wachsmuth (US 3225517), Baker et al (US 5755855A) include compressor, separator to separate the condensed phase from gas mixture, however, the liquid from drainage is not recycled for heat exchanger as claimed by Applicant.

Therefore, it is considered that claims 15-17, 19-26 and 28-30 are defined as patentable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 1797

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to IVES WU whose telephone number is (571)272-4245. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Examiner: Ives Wu

Art Unit: 1797

Date: June 3, 2010

/Duane Smith/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797